

Ground Operations-Dumont Dunes (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700577

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

The Dumont Dunes Grounds Operation Project funds work activities for on site visitor services along with the normal operations, maintenance and law enforcement actions required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. Agency Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain facilities such as roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers. Park Rangers Maintenance, and command post staff work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with rules and regulations. Extra staffing is provided over holiday weekends and during special events to handle peak crowds. Visitor services field work is overseen and coordinated through the activities of dispatchers providing their services from the Inter-Agency Dispatch Center.

This project funds work by our Volunteer Coordinator and staff Recreation Planners to coordinate visitor services, administer volunteer program, manage special projects & events, plus oversee cleanups & improvements. Project management addresses staff supervision and long-term activities & coordination among the BLM Barstow Field Office and our stakeholders. Activities include project coordination, scheduling, monitoring partner activities, addressing inter agency and environmental issues and similar activities. Additional emphasis now goes to work by Wildlife Biologist and Soil Specialist to monitor soils and update both our soil and HMP plans.

More work activities in this project include maintenance of perimeter barriers, 3.5 miles of improved access road, low water crossing, entry station structures (fee machines, trailer pads & trailers, traffic control, signs), 5 kiosks, command post structures (visitor center, equipment sheds, heliport, fencing, lighting, shade ramada, trailer pads & trailers) 16 vault toilets and hundreds of various types & size signs. Sand rail use for rescues, EMT, and public contact. Project equipment and vehicles used for Dumont are stored and maintained in Barstow. Visitor contacts focus on explaining and seeking voluntary compliance for all California OHV and resource protection laws.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

Dumont Dunes has been a popular off-highway vehicle recreation area since the early 1960's. The area was designated as an open area in the 1973 Interim Critical Management Program. This designation was continued when the Dumont Dunes OHV Recreation Area was formally designated for motorized recreation in the 1980 California Desert District Management Plan. Many years later and after extensive public input the Environmental Assessment and Management Plans for Dumont Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Area were approved, in June 1990.

This project is intended to continue providing and managing motorized recreation opportunities at Dumont Dunes. This Project provides the visitor services and facility maintenance needed to sustain OHV recreation on public land. Many of these facilities were built with monies from previous green sticker grants. Visitor contact and support services are provided by staff at the visitor center and through routine patrols of the recreation area. This Project provides basic visitor services for people staging, camping and riding OHVs here today and tomorrow.

Additional Project work takes care of infrastructure built to manage, contain and support OHV recreation. Maintain fencing for sensitive natural and cultural resources while helping prevent trespass into adjacent closed areas. Maintaining the access road network facilitates visitor and emergency vehicle travel and distribution throughout the recreation area. Maintaining the signs, restrooms and fencing sustains a clean healthy setting. And behind the scenes more work activities address the management and protection of sensitive desert resources. Additional work for soil and HMP plans to address soil & special status species; permits are issued and NEPA documents prepared for a steady stream of special events.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The recreation area contains about 10,500 acres designated for intensive OHV recreation use.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

Dumont Dunes are located in the northeast corner of San Bernardino County, deep in the Mojave Desert. The primary riding opportunity is in sand. There are sand flats, little sand hills, big sand hills, gently slopes, steep slopes, bowls, razorbacks, and miles of sand. Cross-country vehicle travel is permitted within the boundaries. This includes the sandfield and little dune system known as ripple dunes, near Highway 127, and a central star dune system, known as Dumont Dunes, located further to the east. All types of off-highway vehicles are allowed to ride here, including sandrails, dunebuggies, ATVs, jeeps, 4 x 4s, side by sides and motorcycles. Riding is limited to three seasons because of intense summer heat. An entry fee is charged. There are 16 vault toilets, and regular patrols. Visitors may camp throughout the area.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

Additional Documentation

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Barstow Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations-Dumont Dunes (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-01-04-G02
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Dumont Dunes Grounds Operation Project funds work activities for on site visitor services along with the normal operations, maintenance and law enforcement actions required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. Agency Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain facilities such as roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers. Park Rangers Maintenance, and command post staff work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with rules and regulations. Extra staffing is provided over holiday weekends and during special events to handle peak crowds. Visitor services field work is overseen and coordinated through the activities of dispatchers providing their services from the Inter-Agency Dispatch Center.</p> <p>This project funds work by our Volunteer Coordinator and staff Recreation Planners to coordinate visitor services, administer volunteer program, manage special projects & events, plus oversee cleanups & improvements. Project management addresses staff supervision and long-term activities & coordination among the BLM Barstow Field Office and our stakeholders. Activities include project coordination, scheduling, monitoring partner activities, addressing inter agency and environmental issues and similar activities. Additional emphasis now goes to work by Wildlife Biologist and Soil Specialist to monitor soils and update both our soil and HMP plans.</p> <p>More work activities in this project include maintenance of perimeter barriers, 3.5 miles of improved access road, low water crossing, entry station structures (fee machines, trailer pads & trailers, traffic control, signs), 5 kiosks, command post structures (visitor center, equipment sheds, heliport, fencing, lighting, shade ramada, trailer pads & trailers) 16 vault toilets and hundreds of various types & size signs. Sand rail use for rescues, EMT, and public contact. Project equipment and vehicles used for Dumont are stored and maintained in Barstow. Visitor contacts focus on explaining and seeking voluntary compliance for all California OHV and resource protection laws.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Park Ranger Notes : Equivalent 2 full time Park Rangers, non-LE.	7422.000	28.000	HRS	63,000.00	144,816.00	207,816.00
	Other-Recreation Planner	520.000	53.000	HRS	27,560.00	0.00	27,560.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
Application: Ground Operations-Dumont Dunes (FINAL)

2/25/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Maintenance Worker Notes : General project maintenance spread out over year.	1400.000	38.000	HRS	53,200.00	0.00	53,200.00
	Other-Clean up Volunteer Notes : Seasonal work done by campground hosts, visitor services, light maintenance & bathroom cleaning.	1040.000	25.000	HRS	0.00	26,000.00	26,000.00
	Other-Seasonal Visitor Services	125.000	130.000	HRS	16,250.00	0.00	16,250.00
	Other-Volunteer Coordinator	80.000	36.000	HRS	2,880.00	0.00	2,880.00
	Other-Wildlife Biologist	180.000	53.000	HRS	9,540.00	0.00	9,540.00
	Other-Soil Specialist	180.000	53.000	HRS	9,540.00	0.00	9,540.00
	Other-Site Manager Notes : In charge of daily operations of area, resolves regular public, staff, and maintainace issues.	120.000	44.000	HRS	5,280.00	0.00	5,280.00
	Heavy Equipment Operator	200.000	50.000	HRS	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
	Other-Time Keeper Notes : This position works overtime, weekends, nights and holidays to process staff time for special events and holidays.	100.000	35.000	HRS	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
	Other-emt	2186.000	49.000	HRS	34,300.00	72,814.00	107,114.00
	Total for Staff				235,050.00	243,630.00	478,680.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Vault toilet pumping	32.000	350.000	EA	0.00	11,200.00	11,200.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Flexible fiberglass signs	200.000	24.000	EA	0.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
	Propane for Portable Heaters Notes : Portable propane heaters are use to keep staff who have to work outside in open areas during winter. Staff spends majority of	50.000	5.000	EA	0.00	250.00	250.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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2/25/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	shifts outside, propane is also for RV trailers brought to the site.						
	Other-road base	250.000	250.000	MISC	40,500.00	22,000.00	62,500.00
	Other-uniforms	20.000	400.000	EA	4,000.00	4,000.00	8,000.00
	Other-Broshures and maps	5000.000	0.500	EA	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				47,000.00	31,050.00	78,050.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Pickup truck Notes : Routine project vehicle use by Park Rangers and BLM staff.	200.000	40.000	DAY	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
	Other-Seasonal pickup truck	180.000	40.000	EA	0.00	7,200.00	7,200.00
	Other-skip loader	20.000	220.000	DAY	0.00	4,400.00	4,400.00
	Water Truck	25.000	100.000	DAY	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
	Other-OHV	100.000	30.000	HRS	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	Other-Sand Rail	100.000	50.000	HRS	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	30,100.00	30,100.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Management Oversight	160.000	75.000	HRS	7,000.00	5,000.00	12,000.00
	Indirect Costs-project admin	160.000	40.000	HRS	2,400.00	4,000.00	6,400.00
	Indirect Costs-visitor contact Notes : Periodic additional contact made by aditional staffers during holidays.	100.000	15.000	HRS	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	Indirect Costs-admin tech	300.000	26.000	HRS	2,600.00	5,200.00	7,800.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
Application: Ground Operations-Dumont Dunes (FINAL)

2/25/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Indirect Costs				13,500.00	14,200.00	27,700.00
Total Program Expenses					295,550.00	330,180.00	625,730.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					295,550.00	330,180.00	625,730.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					295,550.00	330,180.00	625,730.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
 Application: Ground Operations-Dumont Dunes (FINAL)

2/25/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	235,050.00	243,630.00	478,680.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	11,200.00	11,200.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	47,000.00	31,050.00	78,050.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	30,100.00	30,100.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	13,500.00	14,200.00	27,700.00	
Total Program Expenses		295,550.00	330,180.00	625,730.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		295,550.00	330,180.00	625,730.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		295,550.00	330,180.00	625,730.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

This project would have no impact on wetlands or navigable water because there are none in the project area. This project could cause impacts to Mojave Fringe-toed Lizards. Ground disturbing activities are subject to review on a case-by-case basis to avoid and minimize impacts to fringe-toed lizards. Also, this species is subject to management under the HMP - in particular, the HMP calls for focused studies to assess population dynamics and the relation to OHV recreation at Dumont Dunes. No other sensitive habitat or species would be impacted by this project.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

This is a ground operations project to fund continued routine maintenance and operation of existing facilities and services. We determined the potential impacts from these routine activities are nominal and therefore determined this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion. The cumulative impact assessment, p. 13, in the environmental assessment for the Dumont Dunes Management Plan, supports this conclusion because no harmful cumulative impacts are identified for routine operations and maintenance activities. The Dumont Dunes Plan & EA are on file with the Ca OHV Parks Dept.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

There is a very low possibility the proposed activities will have a significant effect on slopes or soils because our routine maintenance and operations do not involve work on steep slopes or highly erosive soils. The facilities at Dumont Dunes are located to avoid problems such as this. Planned work activities in this project include measuring and monitoring soils within the recreation area to monitor, update and ensure compliance with our soils management plan.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There is no potential for damage to scenic resources within the viewshed of a state scenic highway because there are no state scenic highways in the vicinity of Dumont Dunes.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

No known impacts to cultural resources

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

There is no potential for this project to cause indirect significant impacts because all the activities in this project are minor with no or nominal surface disturbances. The work consists of routine on-going maintenance and operations of existing facilities and services inside the OHV recreation area. Most likely, continued maintenance and operations in this project will result in an attractive setting that will continue to draw OHV riders to this area thereby, avoiding conditions that would drive user groups to go elsewhere or cause off-site impacts.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 5

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☒ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 7

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)
☒ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

b. The dunes are surrounded by land with sensitive desert resources, including a river with 8,000 years history. A national historic trail comes down the river past the dunes. The oldest standing building in San Bernardino County is in the adjacent Salt Creek ACEC.

c. There are no threatened or endangered species in the project area. There are a few special status species in the area, with the greatest potential for impact caused by riders going outside the boundaries.

d. This project provides visitor services and facility maintenance to minimize the potential for trespass on adjoining closed lands. There are several protective barriers and numerous boundary signs delineating the boundaries. This problem is also addressed in Dumont restoration grants.

e. This is a remote area with minimal staffing and campground host to maintain facilities. If they are not well maintained there is a greater risk for theft and vandalism.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. Maintain 7 mile entry road; grading, dust control and compaction. Road provides all weather access for primary vehicles with OHVs; campers, motor-homes and trucks towing trailers. Entry fee monies provide minimal road maintenance, project completes regular maintenance.
- b. No need for new erosion control features. Project includes maintaining and repairing access road low level water crossing. After high flow events road surface needs cleaning and traffic control fence needs repair.
- c. Project includes replacement of traffic control signs; stop, speed limits, riding restrictions, directions, boundary and entry station; plus new kiosks and signs explaining rules and regulations; info panels for vault toilets, with map, basic rules, safety and brochure dispenser.
- d. Visitors bring all types OHVs; sandrails, ATVs, RUVs, SUVs, jeeps, motorcycles. Remote controlled toys, geo-caching, photography, hiking, exploring riverbed, touring groups & campers.
- e. Dunes provide every type riding experience.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. This project was presented in public meetings with the OHV Leadership Team and the Wilderness Leaders Meeting, sponsored by California Wilderness Coalition at the BLM CDD Office. These meetings were held to gather public input used for developing our grant projects.
- c. This project was developed in coordination with the oversight provided at Dumont Dunes by the Barstow Dumont Subcommittee. This group is similar to the Friends of El Mirage and is composed of representatives from the various groups with an interest in the dunes. They volunteer their time to help the Bureau managed public recreation opportunities at the dunes.

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points)
- ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ☐ 1 (1 point)
- ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

California Conservation Corp
Amargosa Conservancy
Friends of Dumont Dunes
Dumont Dunes Sub Group

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 5

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)
- ☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
- ☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)

- ☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- ☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. This project adds signs, repairs, strengthens perimeter fencing built to protect sensitive desert resources on adjoining public lands in the Salt Creek ACEC, closed to motorized travel
- b. This project protects water quality in the adjacent Amargosa River. Maintain access road low water crossing, kiosk, fences and barriers to stop OHV riding in and along the river, visitor contact patrols, volunteer route signing projects, cleanups, and barriers.
- d. Activities to prevent special status species impacts include outreach, webpages, signs, kiosks, interpretation, law enforcement patrols and protective fencing. Field inventories to monitor.
- e. This project maintains signs, field patrols, fences and alternative roads to protect the adjacent Amargosa River
- f. There are twenty vault toilets within the recreation area for public use.
- g. Sensitive cultural sites are protected by fences and barriers adjacent to the OHV Recreation area. Project includes fence maintenance, Ranger patrols and monitoring.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 5

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [Recycled asphalt]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

At Dumont dunes we apply sustainable technologies beginning with the use of bolt together facilities that are easily repaired, dismantled and re-cycled. Facility development is guided by a minimalist approach, where we build support facilities. Near the Dumont command post we have a few long term visitor and storage facilities. Visitor services are provided on-site by a series of toy box style trailers towed out on major weekends and special events. Staff car pool and lodge at local facilities. The Dumont dunes entry station and command post rely on solar power with generators providing peak energy. We have landscaped the place with native sand dunes from the area and rock, using no water for irrigation.

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☐ Birding

☒ Hiking

☐ Equestrian trails

☐ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☒ Other (Specify) [photography]